



Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Representation Office in Haiti
22, Rue Mercier-Laham, Delmas 60,
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

PRESS RELEASE

A delegation from the Caricom Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) today ended a one week mission to Haiti, describing their visit as very successful. The delegation, which was led by Executive Director of CROSQ, Dr. Vyjayanthi Lopez, and included Dr. Darius Gabriel, Director of the St. Lucia Standards Bureau and Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues of the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, was in Haiti to advise on the establishment of a Standards Bureau in that country.

Delegation members told a Press Conference in Port au Prince on Thursday that they were very encouraged by what they had found in Haiti. Dr. Lopez said that Haitian authorities, through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, had already begun working on a standards organization. In addition, discussions with the private sector had revealed that the business community in Haiti was very excited about the prospect of a standards bureau and were prepared to support the project. The delegation also disclosed that they were also impressed by the laboratories in Haiti that could be used for testing standards and quality. According to the delegation, Haiti has the infrastructure for a Standards Bureau and what is now required is a coordination and acceleration of the process that is already under way towards forming a national standards authority and the enactment of the necessary legislation by the Haitian Parliament.

The CROSQ mission was organized by the Caricom Representation Office in Haiti as part of its effort to assist Haiti to fast track its participation in the Caricom Single Market and Economy. Director of the Caricom Representation Office, Ambassador Earl Huntley said that at the moment, his office was working with the Haitian authorities to have Haiti participate in free trade in goods within Caricom from January 2009. He added however that this would require Haitian products to conform to agreed regional standards and since Haiti was not a member of CROSQ and did not have a national standards organization, Caricom had organized the CROSQ mission to assess the possibility of setting up the standards body there.

Caricom Representation Office in Haiti
Port au Prince
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